

September 8, 2004

United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

Representative Obey is expected to offer an amendment to the FY 2005 Appropriations bill, which the House is scheduled to vote on this week. **The United Steelworkers of America strongly urges you to support America's working men and women by voting for the Obey overtime amendment.**

The new overtime regulations, which took effect on August 23, 2004, have greatly weakened overtime protections and, according to the Economic Policy Institute, strips overtime pay from six million American workers. According to a report done by three high-ranking DOL career officials, the new regulations have "systematically and effectively" weakened the laws governing overtime that existed before August 23rd, with the exception of one provision, which raises the salary threshold to \$23,660 from \$8,060.

The Obey amendment would reverse this effect by requiring the DOL to rescind the changes that take overtime protections away from millions of working Americans, while at the same time, retaining the salary threshold adjustment. It would restore overtime protections to the six million workers who will lose them. These workers include: working foreman, working supervisors, team leaders and non-degreed employees.

The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) has served to guarantee overtime protection for working families for decades. The law once allowed for the vast majority of American workers who work more than the standard 40-hour workweek to be compensated "time-and-a-half" for the additional hours spent at work. This is no longer a reality. Now that these protections have been stripped from millions of workers, action must be taken to correct this affront to America's working men and women and prevent the consistent assault on their pockets. **Once again, the USWA urges you to vote for the Obey overtime protection amendment.**

Sincerely,

William J. Klinefelter
Assistant to the President
Legislative and Political Director